

HONORING WORKS OF CHATTANOOGA BAR ASSOCIATION AND CHATTANOOGA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I arise today to honor the works of the Chattanooga Bar Association and the Chattanooga Human Rights Commission in my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee and join them in celebrating the CBA's upcoming Law Day Luncheon on May 24, 2004. Law Day, USA is set aside each year on May 1st by a joint resolution of Congress and Presidential proclamation as an occasion for honoring the place of law in our lives. It is not a national holiday, nor is it a "lawyer's day." Instead, Law Day is an occasion for all Americans to learn more about our law, our legal system, and our rights. It is also a day to reflect on our legal heritage, our responsibilities as citizens, and the principles of our democratic government. Law Day has been a vital part of American life for several generations. Law Day has celebrated our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law since it was first proclaimed in 1958 by President Eisenhower. Law Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on how the law protects and guides America's quest for equal justice and equal opportunity, just as it permits us to express our opinions, select our leaders, worship where we choose, and pursue our livelihood. Thanks to the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, and protected by our laws and courts, we Americans have the opportunity—unmatched anywhere in the world—to develop our capabilities to the fullest.

This year, the Chattanooga Bar Association and the Human Rights Commission will celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of the United States Supreme Court's most important cases. *Brown v. Board of Education*, decided on May 17, 1954, changed the civil rights landscape in America forever. Brown showed that resolute citizens, served by dedicated lawyers, can strike powerful blows against social injustice through law and courts.

On May 24th, the Chattanooga Bar Association will honor the legal community of Chattanooga, Tennessee with their annual Law Day Luncheon. The featured speaker is Cheryl Brown Henderson. Mrs. Henderson is one of the children of the late Reverend Oliver Brown, namesake of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1954. During the luncheon, the Chattanooga Bar Association will honor James R. Mapp with the 2005 "Liberty Bell Award." This award, given to a person who is not in the legal profession, is one of the CBA's highest honors. The purpose of the "Liberty Bell Award" is to recognize community service that has strengthened the American system of freedom under law. In selecting the recipient of this award, the Chattanooga Bar Association considers activities which: (1) promote a better understanding of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights; (2) encourage a greater respect for the law and the courts; (3) stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights; (4) contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of governments; and (5) foster a better

understanding and appreciation of the rule of law. I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating James R. Mapp for his contributions to the Chattanooga community.

The winners of the Law Day Essay Contest, which is open to all Hamilton County, private and home school students, grades 9–12, are: 1st place winning the \$2000 college scholarship is Lindsay Frost of Girls Preparatory School. The Second place winner is Stephanie Liu of Girls Preparatory School. The Law Day poetry contest is open to all Third through Fifth graders of the same demographics. Winning 1st place is Caroline Holloway of St. Peter's Episcopal School; 2nd place is Chris Cooper of St. Peter's Episcopal School. The Law Day art contest is open to all Kindergarten through Second graders of the same demographics. Winning 1st place is Sloan Lewis of St. Peter's Episcopal School; winning 2nd place is Lauren Hood of St. Peter's Episcopal School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking the Board of Governors of the Chattanooga Bar Association for their contributions and commitment to the legal profession and to the Chattanooga community. The members of the Board of Governors Executive Committee are: Lynda Minks-Hood, Executive Director; Alan L. Cates, President; Michael K. Alston, President-elect; Joseph R. White, Secretary-Treasurer; Honorable Rebecca J. Stern, Immediate Past President. Board members include: Marcia J. Eason, Steven W. Grant, James M. Haley, IV, Wade A. Hinton, Steven M. Jacoway, Jason L. Thomas and John M. Phillips.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
ABIGAIL BURKE IRWIN

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Abigail Burke Irwin. Abigail Burke Irwin has been called a fighter, an inspiration, "a one-woman community." I knew her because she was my wife's sister, the mother of my two nephews, and the wife of my friend and colleague Burke Irwin. In her short life of 46 years, Abby touched the lives of many people and made an indelible mark. But it was in her last 13 years when she struggled so valiantly against breast cancer that she truly came into her own.

She refused against all odds to give up her fight for life. But more importantly, she used the time she was given to reach out and help others who were also suffering. She packed more into her short life than most people who live to be twice her age. She started a breast cancer support group and founded a local chapter of an advocacy group for Asperger's Syndrome. She was an active and involved mother and community member. Saddled with mounting medical bills for constant chemotherapy and surgeries, she made wooden furniture to sell, and later, when she was too weak, she created jewelry and other crafts.

In the end, she willed herself to live, right up to several days before her death on April 29, 2004, when she rallied her family to a back-

yard picnic on one of the first warm spring days. She wore a bright red hat and coat—red was her favorite color—and she seemed so happy to be alive and in the midst of her loving family.

Breast cancer affects so many lives. It is the leading cause of cancer deaths for women worldwide. We must be determined to continue the fight for increased access to health care and prevention for all women, for continued funding of breast cancer research and for extending Medicare to cover all cancer drugs.

Abby Irwin spent much of her precious time and energy dealing with a flawed health care system, trying to keep ahead of her bills, struggling with the complexities and inadequacies of health insurance. We could not save her life, but hopefully we can save other women from having to deal with the difficulties she faced.

Abby was a fighter, but she never fought only for herself. She always reached out to help others struggling with life's difficulties. Ever the optimist, Abby never liked to report just the bad news. She always added something good. The bad news for her many friends and family members is that Abby has left us. The good news is that because of her strength and courage, her legacy—and her fight—will live on.

NEUQUA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT GRAMMY  
SIGNATURE SCHOOL AWARD  
WINNER

**HON. JUDY BIGGERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Neuqua Valley High School's Music Department. Recently, the Neuqua team was named as one of the top high school music departments in the country by the GRAMMY Foundation's 2004 Signature Schools program.

Neuqua Valley High School was chosen out of 20,000 public high schools from across the country. The GRAMMY Foundation judged applicants on the basis of sample concert programs, repertoire, and recordings of school concerts. In recognition of its achievement, the music department will receive a \$5,000 check from the GRAMMY Foundation.

Being honored for excellence in music is nothing new to Neuqua Valley High School. Although the school opened its doors only 7 years ago, this is the second straight year, and the third time overall, that its music department has been recognized by the GRAMMY Foundation as part of the Signature Schools program.

But Neuqua Valley High School's successes are not confined to its great music department. During the current school year, students have earned a number of honors for academic and athletic achievements, including the state championship for the boy's soccer team, National Scholastic Arts Competition scores for four students, National Merit Scholarship awards for two outstanding students.

Congratulations, Neuqua Valley High School, for the outstanding achievements of the boys and girls and men and women of your excellent music department and for all of